DC #41

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

IN THIS ISSUE:

THE IMPACT COMICS ERA CONTINUES
meet THE COMET and THE JAGUAR

VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE
a new hardcover graphic novel

DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR STRIKES
the deadliest man alive debuts in his own series

BATMAN: THE SUNDAY CLASSICS
also, ROBIN returns to BATMAN

THE FLASH TV SPECIAL
inspired by the hit TV show

ENEMY ACE AND BLACK ORCHID IN TRADE PAPERBACK
also a BLACK ORCHID poster painted by Dave McKean

JUSTICE LEAGUE EXPERIENCES "BREAKDOWNS"
a 15-part story spanning JLA and JLE begins in JLA #53

THE *IMPACT COMICS* ERA CONTINUES!

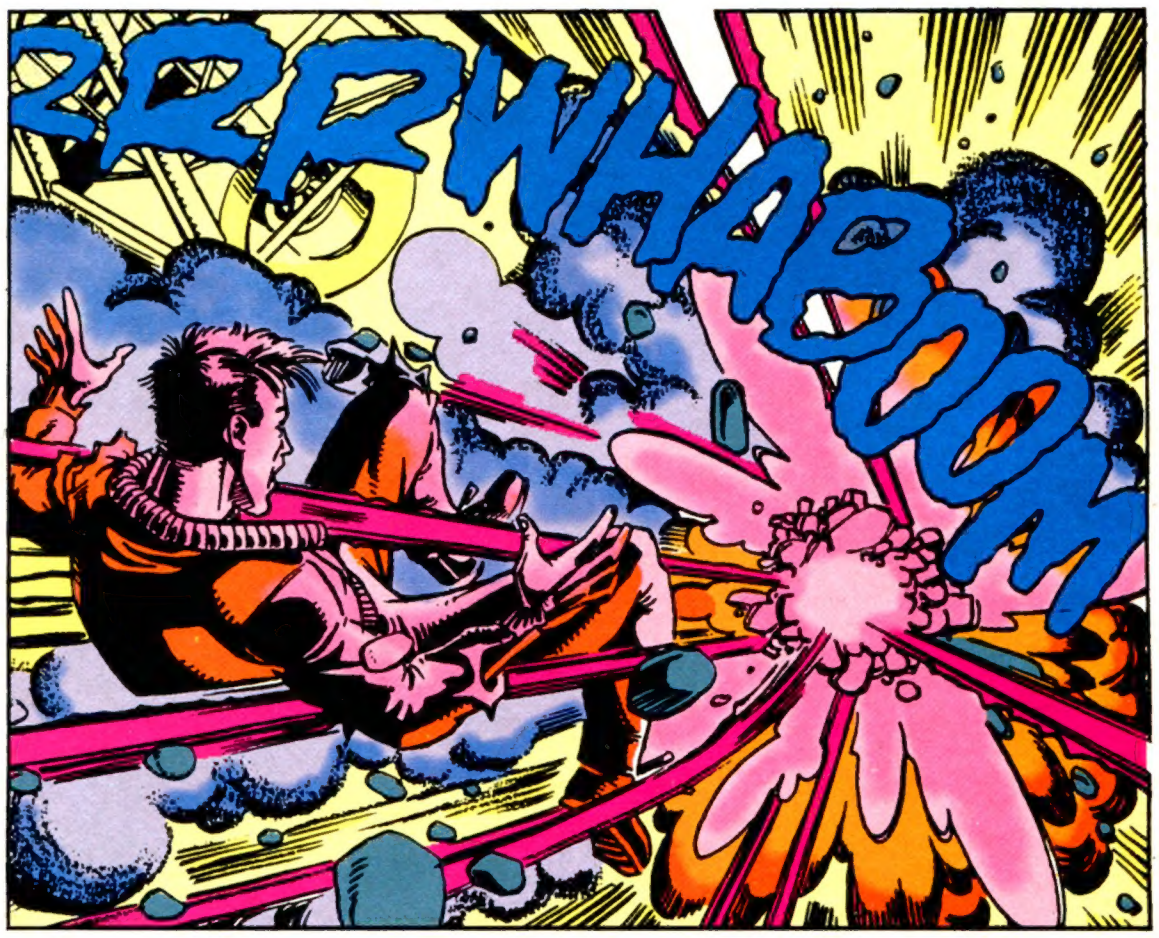
Two more exciting heroes make their debut in the Impact Comics line this month: **THE COMET** and **THE JAGUAR!**

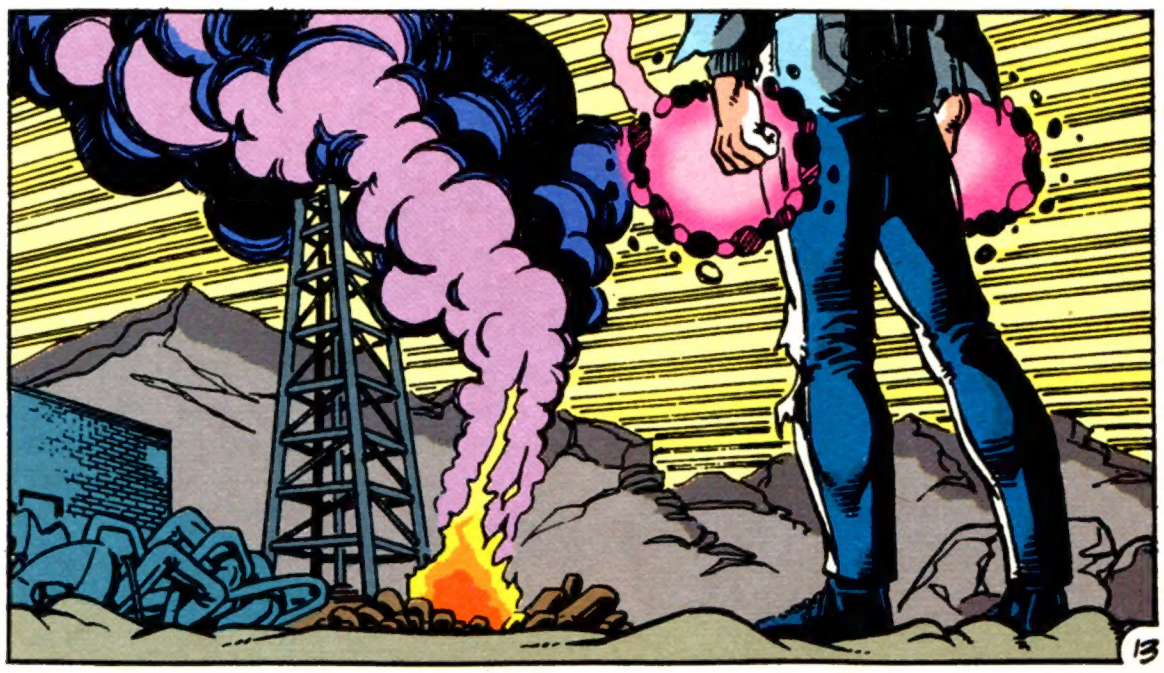
Who is THE COMET, the man with the incredible power of a living comet? What is the mysterious origin of Rob Connors, a man for whom nothing ever seems to go right, until he gains the ability to fly at blinding speed, emit powerful heat and light beams, and is endowed with super-human strength? THE COMET is written by Tom Lyle, of ROBIN miniseries fame, and Mark Waid, pencilled by Lyle, and inked by Scott Hanna.

Then, two weeks later, meet THE JAGUAR! A shy young woman leaves her native Brazil for college in the United States and has trouble adjusting to her new life. When she evolves into the fierce, powerful creature of legend known as the Jaguar, she discovers what *real* trouble is all about! THE JAGUAR is written by William Messner-Loebs, pencilled by sensational newcomer David Williams, and inked by José Marzan.

The Impact Comics line is set outside the DC Universe in its own self-contained "macro-cosm" that will maintain its own tight continuity allowing for team-ups, crossovers, and spin-offs.

THE COMET and THE JAGUAR...two *more* hits from the Impact Comics era!





FROM • THE EDITOR

A new signature appears at the end of this editor's column and a new chapter has begun in the life of this editor. I am now a part of the large, busy team that brings you DC comics every week. It is an exciting job filled with creative challenges and dynamic people. Sometimes I have to pinch myself, thinking, "They pay me to do this!"

It is not, however, without its drawbacks. Upon leaving the friendly offices here in New York City, I join the distinctly un-comical world of the daily commuter. It was on a late ride home that I finally made the right connection.

The train was delayed outside of Newark due to mechanical difficulties. The conductor sounded less than optimistic. Like everyone else on the train, I was too frustrated to sleep, too tired to think. The morning paper in my knapsack seemed outdated, even irrelevant.

Then, my sluggish mind kicked in. That day had been the day that DC's trusty librarian Len Schafer had distributed our weekly supply of comics (to most of us, as good a day as payday). I reached for a SUPERMAN and smiled. My seatmate could not help but notice the change in my demeanor and remarked that I had the right idea about how to wait out a long delay.

Naturally, I retrieved the whole stack of comics from my bag and offered to share. "I always liked GREEN ARROW," he said, and the staid and harried executive became transformed. Then, up popped a head from the seat in front asking, "Got any BATMAN?"

It didn't take long before nearly half the occupants of the train car were reading and swapping DC comics.

When the train lurched into motion a full forty minutes later, a young man laughingly said, "What, already?" to a chorus of hoots and guffaws. (A few people had been reading JUSTICE LEAGUE, after all.) To this day, I am stopped occasionally in the train station and asked, "Aren't you the comics person?"

This is why I love comics. They entertain. They inform. They bring diverse people together in a way that few other media can. More important, this is why I am so happy to be here at DC Comics, participating in an art form that has been such a big part of my life and sharing with others the joy that reading comics has brought to me.

In the future, in this space, expect to read more stories about how people's lives are touched by reading and sharing DC comics. You will hear more from me and from other DC staffers, as well. Soon, I hope to be hearing stories from you, our readers. Though we have never met, even as strangers on a train stuck in New Jersey, we have something very important in common: We love comics and we read DC comics.

Write to me here at
Direct Currents
DC Comics
1325 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

Till next time, I am

Truly unruly,

Patty

Patricia Jeres

ARMAGEDDON 2001 CHECKLIST

ARMAGEDDON 2001 #1
SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3
BATMAN ANNUAL #15
JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA ANNUAL #5
HAWK & DOVE ANNUAL #2
HAWKWORLD ANNUAL #2
FLASH ANNUAL #1
ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #3
L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 ANNUAL #2
NEW TITANS ANNUAL #7
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #3
DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #4
JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE ANNUAL #2
ARMAGEDDON 2001 #2

ENEMY ACE AND *BLACK ORCHID* IN TRADE PAPERBACK EDITIONS

ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL, last year's sold-out and highly acclaimed fully-painted hardcover graphic novel is now available in an affordable Trade Paperback.

ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL tells the story of a Vietnam veteran who interviews a famous World War I German flying ace in hopes of finding answers to the disturbing questions of war that have long plagued his life. Together, these warriors of conflicts separated by half a century explore the meaning of heroism, and the clash of romantic idealism and brutal reality.

The 128-page ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL Trade Paperback is written and painted by George Pratt and features a foreword by Joe Kubert, artist of DC's original ENEMY ACE stories, as well as pages from Pratt's sketchbook.

DC also re-presents the highly acclaimed three-issue Prestige Format BLACK ORCHID miniseries in the **BLACK ORCHID** Trade Paperback. Some super-heroes have secret identities...others just have secrets. Those of the mysterious Black Orchid are revealed as SANDMAN writer Neil Gaiman weaves a tale of horror, mystery and heroism, enhanced by the lush, fully-painted art of ARKHAM ASYLUM's Dave McKean. The 160-page BLACK ORCHID Trade Paperback features a new painted cover by Dave McKean.

Also available this month is the **BLACK ORCHID Poster,** an all-new painted poster by BLACK ORCHID artist Dave McKean, featuring Black Orchid, Batman, and Swamp Thing.

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Patricia Jeres, Editor

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Printed in Canada

BLACK ORCHID Poster

VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE

A NEW HARDCOVER GRAPHIC NOVEL

Prince Jon is surrounded by enemies. On his left are kings and knights who distrust this son of a pirate emperor. On his right is a legion of champions of the realm. All are determined to keep him away from Asa, Princess of the realm and Jon's ill-fated lover. To win Asa's hand, Jon must not only survive royal politics and well-armed suitors, he must also battle the mighty sea-demon, Ansgar!

This is the story of **VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE,** a hardcover graphic novel in comic-book size, starring the legendary Norse hero introduced over 30 years ago in THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD stories by Robert Kanigher and Joe Kubert. Now Prince Jon is back in an all-new, 128-page hardcover graphic novel written by Lee Marrs and featuring fully painted art and cover by Bo Hampton. *Spirit* creator/writer/artist and master storyteller Will Eisner provides the introduction. VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE also features sketchbook pages by Hampton.

VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE...an epic tale of star-crossed love and epic adventure.

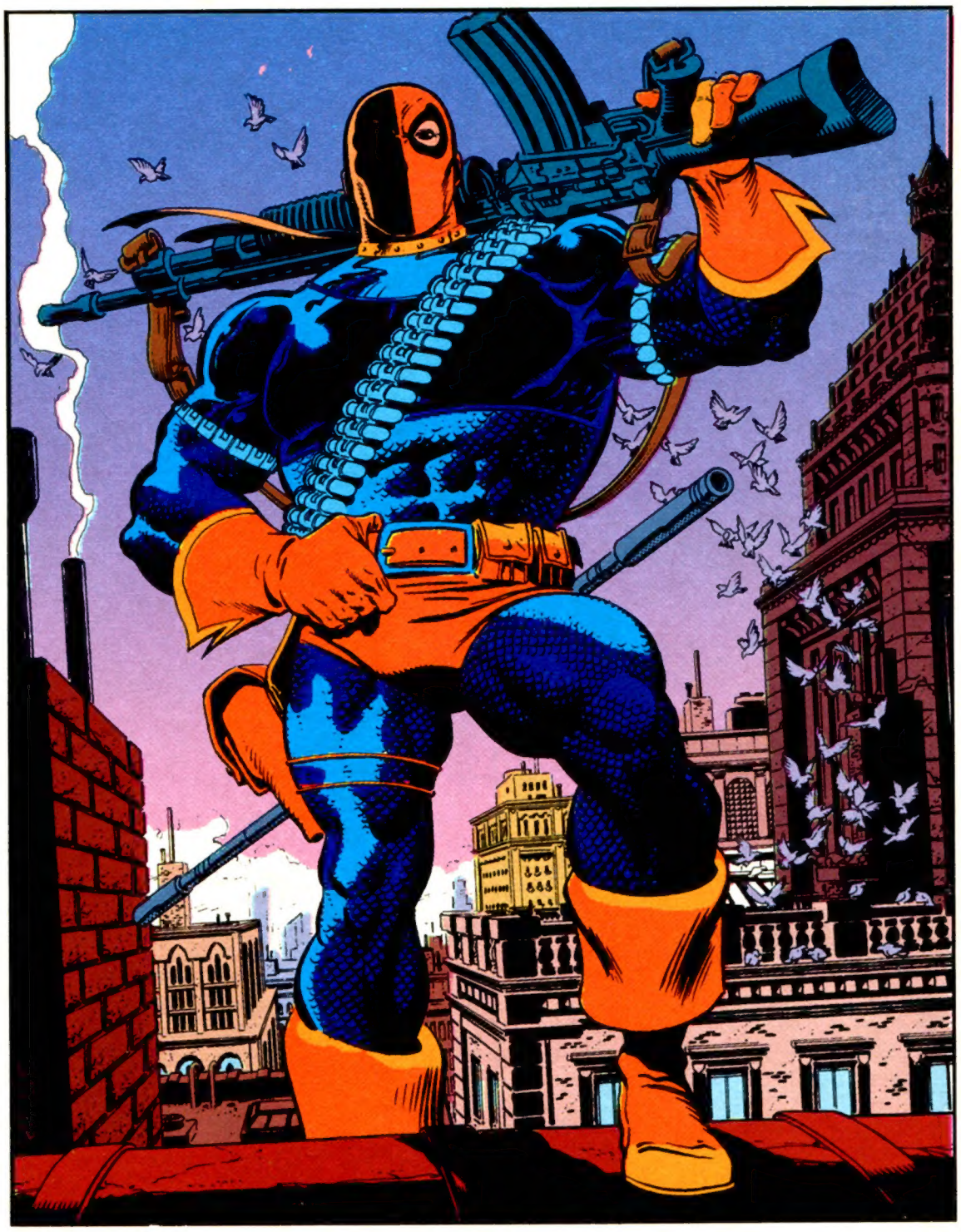
DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR STRIKES!

Slade Wilson is one of the deadliest men alive, and he's proven it time and again in his encounters with THE NEW TITANS.

Now Wilson, a.k.a. **DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR,** leaps into his own monthly title, beginning with a very *personal* mission. His ex-wife, Adeline, has been critically wounded while guarding a top-secret shipment of plutonium. Now, DEATHSTROKE, the ultimate mercenary and killing machine, is out to uncover who took the plutonium and why... and he must settle his own vendetta as well. Someone will pay for the crime...because with all manner of high-tech weaponry at his side to augment his superhuman strength and agility, Deathstroke is unstoppable!

DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR is written by Marv Wolfman, pencilled by Steve Erwin, and inked by Will Blyberg. The New Format monthly title will feature covers by Mike Zeck.

DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR. He doesn't just fight crime. He **terminates** it.



BATMAN: THE SUNDAY CLASSICS... AND ROBIN RETURNS TO *BATMAN*!

DC Comics and Kitchen Sink Press are collaborating once again to produce another high quality reproduction of the very rare 1940s Batman newspaper strip in **BATMAN: THE SUNDAY CLASSICS,** companion volume to the three BATMAN: THE DAILIES books.

BATMAN: THE SUNDAY CLASSICS features 156 pages of **full-color** reproductions of the Sunday Batman syndicated newspaper strip. Also featured are 6 to 7 pages of bios and photos of all the artists and writers of the period, including Batman creator Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Jack Schiff, Charles Paris, and Dick Sprang. Also included are the only known surviving pencil roughs drawn by the legendary Jack Burnley. The McClure Syndicate promotional book for this strip will be reproduced, including advertisements and other previously unpublished Batman material.

Noted Batman historian Joe Desris contributes a text piece to the 208-page BATMAN: THE SUNDAY CLASSICS, as does Al Schwartz, one of only three surviving Batman writers from the period. The cover is by Peter Poplaski, who did the covers for BATMAN: THE DAILIES.

* * *

Also this month, two issues of BATMAN ship as Tim Drake, the *new* ROBIN, returns from his European adventure (as chronicled in the best-selling ROBIN miniseries) to rejoin Batman!

Their reunion takes place in **BATMAN** #465 and continues in #466 as the new Dynamic Duo embarks on its first mission together as a team... a mission that contains surprises for both Batman and his new partner. ROBIN confronts the images of heroes past to find strength in his struggle against a maniacal killer! Also, Commissioner Gordon proposes to Sarah Essen... and a new member of the "Bat-team" takes up residence in the Batcave.

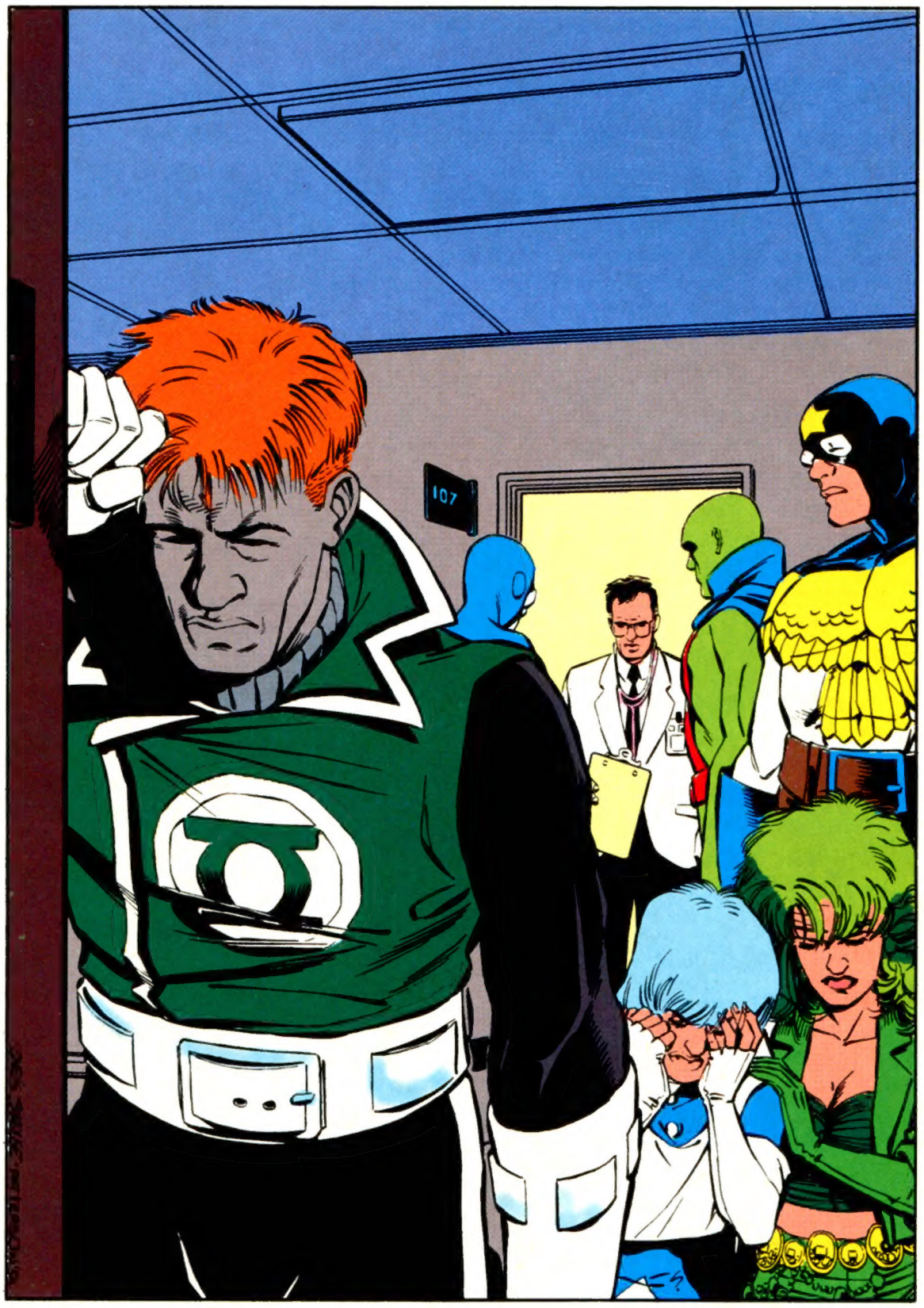
BATMAN #465 and #466 are written by Alan Grant and feature art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell.

JUSTICE LEAGUE EXPERIENCES "BREAKDOWNS"

After the astounding response to last year's "Teasdale Imperative," JUSTICE LEAGUE plotter Keith Giffen, assisted by scripters J.M. DeMatteis and Gerard Jones, decided to unite the storylines of both JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA and JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE. They create a single adventure that will take Justice League International to the brink of dissolution...and beyond. This 15-part story is called "Breakdowns."

It begins in JLA #53 as Justice League Director Maxwell Lord, shot by an unknown assassin, lies in critical condition. Both branches of the League are thrown into unprecedented turmoil. The United Nations assigns a new director, who starts firing old members and hiring new ones. "Breakdowns" will have slugfests galore, guest-starring The Global Guardians, The Conglomerate, and an old, dangerous villain. Things get *really* serious—and for The Justice League, that's a new adventure!

Spanning a period of over seven months, "Breakdowns" will be written by the regular JLA/JLE crew. Each issue of the storyline will be identified by the title and part number featured within the price box of each issue.



THE FLASH TV SPECIAL #1

The Fastest Man Alive is DC's newest TV sensation... and star of the 80-page, New Format **THE FLASH TV SPECIAL #1!**

THE FLASH TV SPECIAL #1 features two stories, both set in the continuity of the television show. In "Ghost of a Chance," FLASH confronts a vengeful spirit out to kill S.T.A.R. Laboratory scientists, written by **John Byrne** and drawn by **Javier Saltares.** And, in "Meet Kid Flash," written by Mark Waid, pencilled by David Williams and Darick Robertson and inked by Gary Martin, a freak lab accident endows a malicious street punk with super-speed.

THE FLASH TV SPECIAL #1 sports a photo cover featuring John Wesley Shipp as THE FLASH, a lavish photo-illustrated behind-the-scenes article on the making of the TV series, interviews with the show's cast, producers, and story editors Howard Chaykin and John Moore, and a complete first-season story guide. *Plus*—a pin-up gallery with contributions by Joe Kubert, Tom Lyle and others!

The FLASH TV SPECIAL #1... he's the fastest man alive *and* the fastest rising star on television.

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

☐ **ACTION COMICS #667**
Conclusion of the 4-part "Revenge of the Krypton Man" (continued from ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #480): After escaping the Krypton Man on Mercury, Superman heads for his Fortress of Solitude for the final showdown! Meanwhile, why are Lana Lang and Pete Ross in Washington, D.C.? Written by Roger Stern, with art by Bob McLeod, Dan Jurgens, Jon Bogdanove, Kerry Gammill, and Dennis Janke. Cover by Gammill and Janke. 48 pages. $1.75

☐ **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ COMICS #31**
Just when he thinks it's safe to go back into the sewers of Waterdeep to search for treasure, Onyx finds gold among the dross and a rotten and best-forgotten shade from his past—his long-lost father! Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Tom Mandrake. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #19**
Superboy becomes an unwitting donor of his super-blood to a young scientist seeking to cure himself of a terrible disease. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art by Jim Mooney and Al Vey. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Ty Templeton. $1.25

☐ **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #481**
While the hunt for Lex Luthor's heir heats up in Metropolis, Pete Ross and Lana Lang have moved to Washington, D.C. Also, a mass murderer is stalking the Metropolis subways. Written by Jerry Ordway, with art by Tom Grummett and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Grummett and Ordway. $1.00

☐ **ANIMAL MAN #38**
Alone, sick, depressed, and feeling his powers are out of control, Animal Man meets the strange Mr. Rainbow. Meanwhile, his son Cliff takes another step towards darkness. Written by Tom Veitch, with art by Steve Dillon. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **BATMAN #465**
Together again for the *first* time — Batman and the *new* Robin! Tim Drake returns to Gotham City and joins Batman on their first mission in a case with surprises for them both. Meanwhile, Commissioner Gordon proposes to Sarah Essen, and Batman's *other* new partner takes up residence in the Batcave. Two issues of BATMAN ship in June. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

☐ **BATMAN #466**
Robin is separated from Batman and trapped in a Heroes Museum with a gun-toting killer. Can he find inspiration in the deeds of past champions in time to save his own life? BATMAN ships twice in June. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

☐ **BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #20**
Part 5 of the 5-part "Venom" presents the final temptation for Batman. He is in a death trap from which the only escape is to succumb, once more, to the addictive drug. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Trevor VonEeden, Russell Braun, and José Luis Garcia-Lopéz. Cover by Garcia-Lopéz. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **BATMAN: THE SUNDAY CLASSICS Trade Paperback**
DC Comics and Kitchen Sink Press have collaborated once again to produce another high quality reproduction of the rare 1940s BATMAN Sunday newspaper strip. In addition to the complete run of the McClure Syndicate Batman Sunday strip, reproduced in **full color**, BATMAN: THE SUNDAY CLASSICS Trade Paperback also features six to seven pages of bios and photos of the artists and writers including Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Jack Schiff, Charles Paris, and Dick Sprang. This edition includes the only known surviving pencil roughs by Jack Burnley, and the McClure Syndicate promotional book, advertisements, and other previously unpublished Batman material. Cover by Peter Poplaski. 208 pages. $19.95

☐ **BLACK ORCHID Poster**
ARKHAM ASYLUM artist Dave McKean has produced an all-new, fully painted, 28"x 22" poster, featuring Black Orchid, Batman, and Swamp Thing! This single piece captures the organic spirit and feminine intensity of Black Orchid, as conceived by writer Neil Gaiman in the acclaimed miniseries. $5.95

☐ **BLACK ORCHID Trade Paperback**
Some people have secret identities... some just have secrets. The highly acclaimed three-part Prestige Format BLACK ORCHID miniseries is now available as a trade paperback. Written by Neil Gaiman, with fully-painted art by Dave McKean. Painted cover by McKean. The Dave McKean-painted BLACK ORCHID Poster is also available this month. 160 pages. $19.95

☐ **CAPTAIN ATOM #55**
Inside the quantum field, on a paradise world of his own creation, Captain Atom learns that he still lacks absolute control of his powers—and that where there are heroes, there must also be villains. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Michael Adams and Romeo Tanghal. $1.00

☐ **CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN #6**
(of an 8-issue limited series)
It took some fancy hocus-pocus, but Ace manages to reunite the Challengers—minus two of its members. Is there a spell potent enough to resurrect Prof and June from the grave? Written by Jeph Loeb, with art by Tim Sale. Cover by Gil Kane. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **THE COMET #1**
The Impact Era continues! Who is the man with the incredible power of a living comet? What is his mysterious origin? Meet the newest hero on the block and learn many of his fascinating secrets in this blazing first issue! Written by Tom Lyle and Mark Waid, with art by Lyle. $1.00

☐ **DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR #1**
From the pages of THE NEW TITANS, Slade Wilson—a.k.a. Deathstroke, the Terminator—leaps into his own action-packed monthly series. Armed with state-of-the-art weaponry and possessing a super-enhanced body, Deathstroke is the ultimate mercenary. Someone has critically injured Slade's ex-wife while stealing a shipment of plutonium. Needless to say, Deathstroke is out for a very personal revenge! Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Steve Erwin and Will Blyberg. Cover by Mike Zeck. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **THE DEMON #14**
Special guest star Lobo and Etrigan are caught by The Odd Squad, the Witch Boy Klarion's grisly gang, in the heart of a nuclear storage facility. What could be weirder than Lobo getting his hands on a live H-bomb? Written by Alan Grant, with art by Val Semeiks and Bob Smith. Cover by Semeiks, Rodier, and Bob Smith. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS #633**
Bruce Wayne is Batman... or *is* he? After awakening in a gutter, Bruce Wayne returns to Wayne Manor only to find that the Batcave has vanished, that Alfred has no knowledge of his life as Batman... and that someone *else* is fighting crime as the Dark Knight. DETECTIVE COMICS is published twice in June. Written by Peter Milligan, with art by Tom Mandrake. Cover by Michael Golden. $1.00

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS #634**
One of the world's most deadly assassins has killed two men and will soon kill again, unless Batman can win the race against time to find "The Third Man." DETECTIVE COMICS is published twice in June. Written by Kelley Puckett, with art by Luke McDonnell. Cover by George Pratt. $1.00

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

☐ **DOOM PATROL #46**
A lethal human weapon will stop at nothing to claim the ultimate prize... the Chief's beard!? Written by Grant Morrison, and pencilled by Vince Giarrano. Cover by Simon Bisley. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **DOCTOR FATE #30**
A policewoman is brutally murdered... and Doctor Fate's attempt to retrieve her from the realm of death results in catastrophic events. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Peter Gross. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DRAGONLANCE™ Comics #33**
A mysterious healer offers aid to a seriously wounded Griff and teaches Riva about her mission for Paladine with the legend of the Blackgem and how a young girl becomes the greatest healer of Taladas. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Grant Miehm. Cover by R.A. Morales. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL Trade Paperback**
Last year's sell-out hit, the fully painted ENEMY ACE hardcover graphic novel, is now available in a trade paperback edition. ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL is the moving story of a reporter and Vietnam veteran who interviews a famous World War I German flying ace in hopes of finding answers to the questions that plague his own life. Written and painted by George Pratt, the ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL Trade Paperback also contains sketchbook pages and a new painted cover by Pratt and a foreword by original ENEMY ACE artist Joe Kubert. 128 pages. $14.95

☐ **FLASH #53**
Superman guest-stars, calling on Flash for help when a super-powered terrorist holds Jimmy Olsen captive. The Man of Steel and Flash must win a race against time, in a story entitled "Fast Friends." Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art by Greg LaRocque and José Marzan, Jr. Cover by Dan Jurgens and Marzan. $1.00

☐ **THE FLASH TV SPECIAL #1**
An 80-page special starring DC's newest TV sensation—The Flash! This issue, with a photo-cover of John Wesley Shipp as The Flash, features two stories set in the "TV continuity." First, in a story written by John Byrne and drawn by Javier Saltares, Barry Allen doesn't stand a "Ghost of a Chance" against a vengeful spirit who is out to murder S.T.A.R. Labs scientists. Then, Flash will "Meet Kid Flash" when a lab accident goes awry and endows a malicious street punk with super-speed, in a tale written by Mark Waid, pencilled by David Williams and Darick Robertson and inked by Gary Martin. THE FLASH TV SPECIAL also features interviews and behind-the-scenes profiles, lavishly illustrated with photos from the series, and pin-ups by Joe Kubert, Tom Lyle, and others! *(New Format)* $3.95

☐ **FORGOTTEN REALMS™ Comics #24**
Vartan the Elf shows what *really* goes on behind the scenes of the Forgotten Realms as he takes you on a tour that shows why "Everybody Wants To Rule the Realms." Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by R.A. Morales. *(New Format)* $1.75

THE DEMON #14

☐ **GREEN ARROW #50**
This special 48-page issue celebrates GREEN ARROW's fiftieth anniversary. A takeover of the Seattle Space Needle by Middle East terrorists awaits Oliver Queen's return home, leading Green Arrow in a desperate attempt to save lives—including Dinah's. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Rick Hoberg and John Nyberg. Cover painted by Grell. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $2.50

☐ **GREEN LANTERN #15**
An alien race of cannibals has turned its attention to the humans trapped with them on Oa... leaving John Stewart to find a way to prevent an interspecies war from tearing Oa apart. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by M.D. Bright and Romeo Tanghal. $1.00

☐ **GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN II #4**
(of a 6-issue miniseries)
Katma Tui leads the people of Korugar in a revolt against Sinestro, whose berserk rage can be stopped by only one man — Hal Jordan. Written by Keith Giffen and Gerard Jones, with art by Mark Bright and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by M.D. Bright and Klaus Janson. $1.00

☐ **HAWK & DOVE #26**
Worried about Hawk's recent "crime spree," Dove reflects on her past and is forced to question the duo's future. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler. $1.25

☐ **HAWK & DOVE ANNUAL #2**
The saga of ARMAGEDDON 2001 continues! Waverider looks into Hawk's and Dove's *possible* futures, where he finds a Hawk beset by angst, anger, and rebellion as he becomes one of Monarch's Peacemaker field agents and Dove gives birth to a child who may just be the salvation of the troubled future. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Paris Cullins, Curt Swan, Gabriel Morrissette, Kerry Gammill, John Statema, Scott Hanna, and Al Vey. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Dick Giordano. 64 pages. $1.95

☐ **HAWKWORLD #14**
Hawkwoman's investigation of the murder of a high priestess takes her downside, placing her in the perilous position of defending her accused grandmother and confronting her *natural* father. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Graham Nolan. *(New Format)* $1.50

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

☐ **HAWKWORLD ANNUAL #2**
The saga of ARMAGEDDON 2001 continues! Waverider heads to Chicago, where he finds the Hawks in their *possible* future ready to come out of retirement with new technology in order to face one of their most deadly foes in final combat. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Gary Kwapisz. 64 pages. *(New Format)* $2.95

☐ **HELLBLAZER #44**
Part 4 of the 6-part "Dangerous Habits": Dying from cancer, John Constantine says good-bye to all his nearest and dearest before preparing for the final ritual that may save his life... or cost him his soul. Written by Garth Ennis, with art by Will Simpson and Tom Sutton. Painted cover by Tom Canty. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **THE JAGUAR #1**
Meet The Jaguar, the latest sensation from Impact Comics! A shy young girl leaves her native Brazil for college in the United States and is confronted by all manner of social and academic troubles. Soon they are overshadowed by the trouble she encounters when she evolves into the fierce, powerful creature of legend known as The Jaguar. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by David Williams and José Marzan, Jr. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #53**
"Breakdowns," a 15-part storyline spanning issues of JLA and JLE, begins with this issue. Maxwell Lord has been shot! While the JLA awaits news of his final fate, they reminisce about the good old days with Max. Meanwhile, the United Nations deliberates the League's future standing. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Chris Wozniak and John Beatty. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #28**
It's friend against friend (sort of!) as Captain Atom, Rocket Red, and Metamorpho battle the rest of the JLE, now possessed by the tyrannical Starro the Conqueror. Guest-starring J'onn J'onzz, the Martian Manhunter. Written by Keith Giffen and Gerard Jones, with art by Darick Robertson and Randy Elliott. Cover by Bart Sears. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #5**
(of an 8-issue limited series)
The original Hawkman and Flash team up to bring the JSA's battle to Vandal Savage's front door—only to face the combined might of two stellar creatures *and* Savage, now armed with Starman's cosmic rod! Written by Len Strazewski, with art by Mike Parobeck and Rick Burchett. Cover by Tom Lyle. $1.00

☐ **LEGEND OF THE SHIELD #2**
The Impact Era continues as The Shield, America's greatest super-hero, goes on his first official mission to rescue hostages in the Middle East. His heroism, however, could cost the life of his best friend! Written by Grant Miehm and Mark Waid, with art by Miehm and Joe Albrecht. Cover by Miehm. $1.00

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 #30**
Lobo disgusts Phase, so she belts him one in the chops... and sparks the most unusual fight scene in years. Also—the L.E.G.I.O.N. recruits several new members, and Captain Comet undergoes an ominous medical scan. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #21**
Part 1 of the 4-part "The Quiet Darkness": Lobo and Darkseid's hunt for a sweet little girl results in the imposition of martial law on the planet Zoon. Brainiac Five and Furball are caught in the middle of the cosmic chase! "The Quiet Darkness" is the sequel to the legendary "Great Darkness Saga," one of the Legion's greatest cases. Written by Al Gordon and Keith Giffen, with art and cover by Giffen and Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

THE JAGUAR #1

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 #30 — Lobo

☐ **MISTER E #2**
(of a 4-part miniseries)
Seeking the mysterious Angel/Temptress who has manipulated his entire life, Mister E encounters an enigmatic wolf-being called the Shadower... and an eerie scientist-sorcerer who holds the key to Mister E's past. Written by K.W. Jeter, with art by John K. Snyder III and Jay Geldhof. Painted cover by Merritt Dekle. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **NEW GODS #28**
Events barrel to a conclusion in this final issue of NEW GODS as Orion and Lightray question life itself and the cast of Jack Kirby's wondrous "Fourth World" heads for a new dawn! Written by Mark Evanier, with art by Rick Hoberg and Frank McLaughlin. Cover by Hoberg and Will Blyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE NEW TITANS #78**
A newly enhanced—and heavily armored—Cyborg fights his old teammates to *stay* in Russia while, back in New York, Donna Troy finally returns, only to encounter a Wildebeest attack squad and a strange glowing light. Will she be in time to help... or will she be the next target of the Wildebeest? Written by Marv Wolfman, with art and cover by Tom Grummett and Al Vey. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **THE QUESTION QUARTERLY #3**
A film crew arrives in Hub City to shoot an action-adventure film, bringing a load of real guns. Add to the mix two warring street gangs hired as extras and the brutal Cathy Fregosi, who has come to steal the weapons. The result has the Question fighting for his own safety in the center of a war zone. Written by Dennis O'Neil and pencilled by Joe Quesada. Cover by Denys Cowan. 48 pages. *(New Format)* $2.50

☐ **SANDMAN #29**
In 18th Century Europe, Sandman induces the enigmatic Lady Johanna Constantine to undertake a particularly dangerous mission for him. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Stan Woch and Dick Giordano. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **SGT. ROCK #15**
Sgt. Rock stars in "War Party" by Robert Kanigher and Joe Kubert, in which the sarge must earn his place as an honorary chief in the tribe of Little Sure-Shot, a Native American member of Easy Company. Back-ups include work by Bob Haney, Jack Abel and a glorious "Enemy Ace" short story by Kanigher and Kubert in which the Hammer of Hell incurs the wrath of a ranking officer in "The Devil's General." Cover by Joe Kubert. $2.00

☐ **SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #14**
Shade confronts the Godfather of Guilt in Santa Fe during a Kafkaesque trial of complex prosecutions and obscure crimes. Will Shade be sentenced to a fate worse than Albuquerque? Written by Peter Milligan, with art by guest penciller Bryan Talbot and Mark Pennington. Painted cover by Jamie Hewlett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE SHADOW STRIKES! #21**
One by one, the Shadow's agents are meeting mysterious fates—and the Shadow himself may be the next target of his archenemy, the ruthless and deadly Shiwan Khan! Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Rod Whigham and Gerry Fernandez. Cover by Eduardo Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $2.00

☐ **SPELLJAMMER™ Comics #12**
Jasmine is marooned in wildspace with a swiftly-shrinking air envelope and Meredith refuses to search for her. This forces a deadly confrontation between Meredith and Kirstig for control of Meredith's skyship. Written by Adam Blaustein, with art by Joe Quesada and Dan Panosian. Cover by Quesada and Joe Rubinstein. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK® #22**
Only one man could steal a religious artifact, infuriate an entire planet... and have the nerve to seek sanctuary aboard the Enterprise—Harry Mudd. Written by Howard Weinstein, with art by Gordon Purcell and Arne Starr. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.75

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JUNE

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE MODALA IMPERATIVE #2**
(of a 4-issue miniseries)
Kirk and Chekov meet the rebels of Modala, only to discover that just by being involved, they've threatened the development of an entire planet. STAR TREK®: The Modala Imperative is published twice in June. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Adam Hughes and Karl Story. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE MODALA IMPERATIVE #3**
(of a 4-issue miniseries)
Spock and McCoy beam down to Modala in search of their missing comrades... and find themselves unable to rescue Kirk and Chekov from prison! STAR TREK®: The Modala Imperative is published twice in June. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Adam Hughes and Karl Story. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION #22**
The Enterprise crew tries to adjust to life after their comrades are lost aboard a missing shuttle and try to save a world's archaeological artifacts from an ecological disaster... even though the very planet they aid is keeping a vital secret from them. Meanwhile, the lost shuttle crew meets some potential allies. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Peter Krause and Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **STARMAN #37**
Rampage and Phantom Lady discover that the crime cartel, Les Mille Yeux, is behind Starman's encounter with the treacherous Computron. What does this crime syndicate have in store for these heroes? Written by Len Strazewski, with art by Dave Hoover and Roy Richardson. Cover by Hoover. $1.00

☐ **SUICIDE SQUAD #55**
Part 3 of the 5-part "Dragon's Hoard": The Yakuza prepares to execute Amanda Waller as Deadshot, Count Vertigo and Steel Wolf go up against the Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea. Catseye ambushes Mark Shaw and Bronze Tiger, and Nightshade is cornered by the Red Shadows. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by Geof Isherwood and Robert Campanella. Cover by Isherwood. $1.00

☐ **SUPERMAN #58**
The Bloodhounds are tailing the Man of Steel all over town. Who are they... and what do they have planned for Superman? Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Brett Breeding. Cover by Jurgens and Breeding. $1.00

☐ **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #2**
Superman only *thought* he'd finished dealing with the menace of Cerberus... but now he finds his hands full when Cerberus rears a few more of "his" ugly heads! Written by Louise Simonson, with art and cover by Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke. $1.00

☐ **SWAMP THING #110**
A new SWAMP THING creative team debuts with the chilling tale of the mad priest called Father Tocsin, who has come to Houma to "test" his followers with a fatal poison. But when Tocsin indoctrinates one of his friends, Swamp Thing must stop the killings before they spread too far. Written by Nancy A. Collins, with art by Tom Mandrake and Kim DeMulder. Painted cover by John Higgins. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **SWAMP THING ANNUAL #6**
An exciting new creative team arrives to usher Swamp Thing into the '90s. Swamp Thing, Abby, and Tefé return to the Louisiana bayou to reacquaint themselves with friends... and find that a bizarre creature composed of the bodies of four cruelly murdered people stalks Houma. Written by award-winning horror novelist Nancy A. Collins, with art by Bill Jaaska and Rick Bryant. Painted cover by John Higgins. 64 pages. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $2.95

☐ **TINY TOON™ ADVENTURES MAGAZINE #4**
So you think Acme Acres™ is bucolic and boring, do you? Wait'll we turn the Tiny Toon Adventures gang loose on the Big City! Any bets on the winner? Cover by Juan Ortiz and Bob Pasquale. *(Magazine Format)* $1.95

☐ **VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE Hardcover Graphic Novel**
DC presents the hardcover, comic book-sized graphic novel VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE. Jon, the Viking Prince, is sent on a quest he can never hope to fulfill in order to win the hand of Asa, his ill-fated lover and Princess of the Realm. Written by Lee Marrs, with fully painted art and cover by Bo Hampton. Introduction by *Spirit* creator Will Eisner. 128 pages. $24.95

☐ **WONDER WOMAN #57**
For breaking the laws of Patriarch's World, Wonder Woman is wanted... dead or alive! Meanwhile, a cataclysm that will affect the entire DC Universe is brewing. Will Wonder Woman have to fight it alone? Written by George Pérez, with art by Jill Thompson and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pérez. $1.00

SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #2

people at WORK

LEE MARRS

Lee Marrs is a unique talent, even in an industry bursting at the seams with unique talents. She's an artist, a writer, a humorist, an illustrator, an underground cartoonist, a political commentator, a social activist... and probably a whole lot more that we didn't get to in this interview. Lee is, however, most definitely the writer of this month's **VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE,** on which she collaborated with artist Bo Hampton. But more on VIKING PRINCE later. First some background on Lee.

"I was born in Montgomery, Alabama, back in the dark ages," Lee told us. "These were such dark ages that they didn't sell *Mad* Magazine in Alabama, at least not in *my* part of Alabama. I had to have various friends who had relatives in Atlanta smuggle them across the border so I could read it. I was a fan girl of comics when I was little, a big fan of Carl Barks's Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge goodies, of Little Lulu, and Batman, because he was so mysterious... and of Joe Kubert's art, which was probably why my grandmother figured I was going to grow up to be a marine. I so loved his drawing style that I would get her to buy me Sgt. Rock and the like... and VIKING PRINCE, which Kubert drew in THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD.

"I started drawing when I was very little and would copy the comics, which led to my writing my own, making stories out of what was happening with my neighbors... which my family quickly stifled in the interest of neighborhood unity. I worked on the school newspaper all the various places we lived. I did cartoons... I was going to be a political cartoonist. It was great... if other kids made these kinds of comments, or acted on various opinions about what was stinky in a school, they'd get suspended. Instead, I'd do it as cartoons and get journalism awards. Great! You could literally get away with murder."

Lee turned professional young. Or, as she puts it, "I sold out early. I started working in high school, for money, in so-called commercial art. This was in France, where we'd gone to live because my father was in the Alabama National Guard and got called up during the Berlin Wall crisis. Then we lived in the Washington, D.C. area, so I did Nash Rambler dealership George Washington Day windows.

"Since I was going to be a political cartoonist, I had a double major in art and international relations.

"I continued doing all kinds of political cartoons for newspapers, as well as posters and illustrations for various magazines around D.C., so by the time I graduated I actually had a portfolio." Newspaper strip artist Tex Blaisdell gave Lee her first break in the comics field. "I started assisting Tex on various strips he was working on. This was while I was in college, so I worked on *Prince Valiant, Hi and Lois* and, later on, *Little Orphan*

Annie, and got to do good stuff like filling in the blacks. Oooh!" Lee laughs, but adds, "It was really good experience. I had been drawing constantly for 20 years by then, although I was only 22 at the time.

"Then, when I tried to strike out on my own, I heard a lot of, 'Gee, you draw good for a girl!' and I began to realize that there was a big difference between freelancing as a school kid and actually getting a job. I was running around New York, looking into the comic book universe, and advertising and illustration and other things as part-time jobs, and people would look at my work and say, 'This stuff is so good it looks like a guy drew it. But, of course, we don't hire any girls.' What does that mean? This was before feminism and lawsuits.

"So I went around, trying to get political cartooning work. I learned that if I *mailed* in my work instead of coming in, they wouldn't know I was a girl, because I have this ambisexual name. So I managed to get into CBS News in the graphics department this way. I did that for a couple of years, working my way up to art director. These were wonderful news years but terrible real life years... all your major people got assassinated during that time. And then, of course, the riots, the war... but it was a great time for the news business. And I also got to do political cartoons because on the weekend news they had these semi-animated commentaries. But nobody awake at 11:30 on a Saturday night was watching the news.

"Then the TV station expanded and demoted all of us and sort of fell apart, and I freelanced for a while, and then my personal life fell apart and I moved out to California... and fell into underground comics. Schump! And fell in love! This was great! I could do the kind of cartoons and stories and political content that I *wanted.* It took me a while to figure out that this was not only a way *not* to make money, it was a way to *lose* money and get hate mail."

Hate mail and financial burdens aside, Lee eventually found her way into mainstream comics at DC. "Joe Orlando was a complete sweetie," she recalls of her first editor at DC. "This was still in the late '60s, when super-heroes were big, but Joe had a yearning to have humor magazines and horror comics, of which there were a few little trickles, but nothing had really taken off yet. I met Joe through Tex Blaisdell. Joe was pretty impressed with a lot of the funny stuff I had been writing on my own, so I started working for him on his humor comic PLOP! and that whole line of horror, HOUSE OF MYSTERY and HOUSE OF SECRETS.

"I eventually did some work for Marvel as well, first for *Crazy* Magazine, a feature called 'Crazy Lady.' It was all about growing up in the '50s and '60s, all the horrible, humiliating things that happen to you growing up in those days. Then Star*Reach came along and I started doing science fiction for them and, later on, for *Epic Illustrated* and *Heavy Metal.*

"I've been supporting myself doing animation and computer graphics in recent years, but I've tried to keep my hand in comic books, working on various projects that only went so far and with things like *Wimmins Comics.* But dealing with the commercial world, where your success is judged by how much toothpaste you sell, can really get to you after a while. In the last few years I've gotten more and more interested in getting back into storytelling and not having to deal with art directors and ad agency people."

Which brings us, at long last, to VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE. "The appeal of The Viking Prince was that nothing had been done with the character in years, so I could do just about anything I wanted without running into the problem of continuity. I figured The Viking Prince was territory I could deal with.

"I was interested in doing a growing up story, about what it was like to be, almost, the high school quarterback, the winner, the star, with nothing to worry about. Suddenly the prospect of being dealt a series of decisions and activities you never had to handle before and the kind of changes a person goes through when that happens... And also that world, that whole fantasy world... well, not exactly entirely fantasy. The Viking era was fascinating, very strange... much more open than people know about. I mean, there was international trade all the way down to Egypt and all. It was much more exotic and active... people think of Vikings as they live in ships, land in villages, rape, pillage and burn the village down and then sail off with little horned caps on, singing. But there was a lot more to it than that. I like doing research, so it was fun. How else could I learn that one of the reasons Vikings were so successful in settling the coast of England was that they took a lot of baths? So the English women thought they were pretty terrific in comparison to the guys that they usually had to hang around with... 'Gee, you don't smell like swine, are you sure you're a guy?'

"So he leaves the world he knows and gets dumped into a world he never made, that sort of thing," she laughs. "He finds a troubled true love, who is definitely not the girl next door, and has all kinds of people plotting to do him in, so he has to defend his person and try to win the hand and heart of this cantankerous young woman before going off on a quest for these runes... in the course of which, he defeats a dragon... we figured we needed a dragon in there."

The BRAVE and the BOLD

VIKING GLORY: THE VIKING PRINCE, a hardcover graphic novel by Lee Marrs and Bo Hampton, was inspired by the work of Joe Kubert, as shown here on the cover of THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #17.

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NO. 17
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DC
The BRAVE and the BOLD
THRILL TO THE HEROIC FEATS of The SILENT KNIGHT and The VIKING PRINCE in Full-Length Tales